

Collective Bargaining Majority Rule Firmly Defended by Green In Statement to Labor Committee

A. F. of L. Chief Declares Employers Have Used Evasion And Trickery to Defraud Workers of Their Rights Under Section 7-A—Visions of Wide Use of Labor's "Economic Power" to Secure

Bill Unless Wagner-Connelly Is Enacted.

By A. F. of L. News Service.

Washington.—A strong defense of majority rule in collective bargaining and the prediction that the workers of the United States will make vigorous use of their economic power to secure their rights unless Congress enacts the Wagner-Connelly Labor Disputes Bill characterized the statement in favor of the bill by William Green, president of the American Federation of Labor, before the Labor Committee of the House of Representatives, of which Representative Connelly of Massachusetts is chairman.

Evason and Trickery

Claiming that "unscrupulous and ruthless" employers have resorted to "subterfuge, evasion and trickery" to

Workers' Rights The National Industrial Recovery Act, which was passed last year, was intended to prevent or destroy the organization of the workers into bona fide trade unions, and to prevent the charge of discrimination, company unions, and the doctrine of minority representation. The act also provides for the conservation of economic resources, and restricts the power of the government to interfere with the economic system.

Labor Will Use Economic Power "There is unrest among the workers of this country which will lead an outlet," he said. "If the present government is to be replaced, the outlet will be found in the labor movement. The workers will attempt to organize and bargain collectively with their employers. If the government does not become law, there will be no course open to the workers but to

use of their collective rights by the use of their Congress to choose which way the working men and women want. Collective bargaining has not yet been made vital. Only Congress can make it so.

On the question of majority rule in collective bargaining, Green said:

Majority Rule Is Not New

"I want to call especially to your attention the question of majority rule which is covered in section 9-A of the National Labor Relations Act. As provided in this rule, representatives selected by the majority of the employees in any bargaining unit are held to be the exclusive representatives of all employees in that unit."

The principle of majority rule was established by the National Labor Relations Board in 1935.

Necessary for Collective Bargaining

The executive orders of President Roosevelt which created the Steel and Coal Labor Relations Boards provide contained provisions for majority collective bargaining.

For this reason, the principle upon which our government is based, Collective bargaining can obviously be made effective, just as government can succeed only under majority rule.

It is the responsibility of the majority to collective bargaining realistically and we have evolved the doctrine of minority rights to protect the rights of the minority against the majority.

Knowing collective bargaining, they would have little to fear if they

Employees Control Woman Board Committee

"Within a few weeks, the workers in the automobile industry, who believed that they might bargain collectively under a law recently passed by the U. S. Congress, will be confronted by the Woman Board, have destroyed by the fatal weakness of that method of dealing with the employers, and are searching for other means of carrying on their collective bargaining.

"They have found that the so-called bargaining committees set up by the board are controlled by the employers, and are controlled by the employer exactly as he controlled the employee representatives in the company union, in which he openly flouted the law."

Recognized by Employers' Associations
 "Employers recognize the principle of majority rule in their own associations; codes are adopted by a majority of the members and are binding upon the minority. It is particularly unjust that employers who benefit from that principle as applied to government employees should deny it when it is applied to employer-employee relationships."

Disputes Bill Ends Uncertainty
 "The Connery Bill will end the uncertainty which has prevailed. There will be no more doubt as to the effect of the bill on this point after the adoption of the bill, nor will there be opportunity to deny to one group of workers the benefit other workers have received from varying interpretations of the law."

Must Be Made Law

"We do not deny and never have denied that an individual and even a minority group of employees should have the right to appeal to the employer on grievances which involve only themselves. It is not our belief that such cases are permitted to negotiate with management for general conditions of employment."

"Time and again employers make greater concessions to the company union than the bona fide union in order that their employees should be able to join a bona fide labor organization which would give true bargaining power to the employees."

"The principle of collective bargaining, the principle of majority rule must be definitely recognized and written into the law."

LABOR EDITORIAL

Chattanooga, Tenn. (APIN)—Robert M. Crooks, editor of the Labor World, was elected to the Chattanooga City Commission for a four year term.

